

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

1. Kindly replace the paragraph on page 3, lines 8-12, which begins with "The composition according...", with the following new paragraph:

The composition according to the present invention comprises at least one non-reducing disaccharide, selected from the group consisting of trehalose (D-glucopyranosyl-D-glucopyranoside), sucrose (β -D-fructofuranosyl- α -D-glucopyranoside), as well as derivatives thereof, and at least one protein or polypeptide of the LEA class.

2. Kindly replace the paragraph in page 4, lines 12-15, which begins with "According to a preferred embodiment..." with the following new paragraph:

According to a preferred embodiment, the composition comprises the components of the non-reducing disaccharide and the protein or polypeptide of the LEA class in respective quantities of from 0.01 to 15, or, ~~as the case may be, 0.00001 to 1 weight percent, in each case~~ respectively, with reference to a ready-to-use solution.

3. Kindly replace the paragraph in page 7, lines 23, page 8, line 2, which begins with "The presently used term..." with the following new paragraph:

The terms "stabilization" and "preservation" as used herein, relate to the structural or functional integrity of biomolecules and the biological properties based thereon. The required activity of a biomolecule for a particular application requires, for example, the significant conservation of its primary, secondary and/or tertiary structure. The biological activity of a nucleic acid probe comprises, for example, its property for forming a hybridization complex with a nucleic acid target which is complementary to the probe.

The biological activity of an antibody comprises, for example, a specific binding of an antigen.

3. Kindly replace the paragraph on page 8, lines 8-16, which begins with "The used terms..." with the following new paragraph:

The terms "stabilization" and "preservation" as used herein relate to the structural or functional integrity of biomolecules and the biological properties based thereon. The required activity of a biomolecule for a particular application requires, for example, the extensive maintenance of its primary, secondary and/or tertiary structure. The biological activity of a nucleic acid probe comprises, for example, its property for forming a hybridization complex with a nucleic acid target which is complementary to the probe. The biological activity of an antibody comprises, for example, a specific binding of ~~an~~ its antigen.